GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1175
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2002
MANUFACTURING OF MINERAL WATER BY RAILWAYS
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided on a project for manufacturing mineral water for sale on the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the need and feasibility and investments involved therein;

(c) whether railways have been losing on the catering services;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether this will further divert the attention from lack of core services such as sale of tickets/ reservations and management of passenger and goods services and is perhaps an exercise to divert public attention from core services?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIST RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) will set up water purification plants out of their own resources and it will not burden Indian Railways. The need for setting up of water plant arose out of increasing consumption of packaged drinking water in railways and frequent cases of failure in quality checks of various brands. Railways will only provide land under mutually agreed terms for this project.

(c) & (d) Railways catering services in some sectors are making marginal losses due to high overheads in case of departmental catering.

(e) No, Sir.